

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 /086 W

----- 124131

O R 041800 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6106

UNCLAS BONN 9567

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (ROGERS, WILLIAM O.)

SUBJECT: SEC/ VISIT: EUROPEAN PRESS COVERAGE

REF: STATE 128096

1. THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CSCE PHASE I CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI CONTINUED TO BE THE TOP STORY IN WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS JULY 4. MOST CARRIED EXTENSIVE ARTICLES DESCRIBING WHAT THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG CALLED "SURPRISING OPTIMISM IN HELSINKI AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE." THERE WAS LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT AFTER EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COVERAGE JULY 3. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE DEVOTED MUCH OF ITS FRONT- PAGE COVERAGE TO GROMYKO' S SPEECH, ALSO TOUCHING ON FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN' S ADDRESS. ON ITS INSIDE PAGES, THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE DESCRIBED SOVIET SATISFACTION WITH THE CONFERENCE SO FAR, FROM THE ORGANIZATION PROVIDED BY THE HOST FINNISH GOVERNMENT TO APPROVAL OF DECLARATIONS. IN THE SAME STORY, PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF CSCE IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING SOVIET STRENGTH WERE ASCRIBED TO WEST GERMAN OPPOSITION (CDU/ CSU) POLITICIANS, LED BY CSU CHIEF STRAUSS.

2. VERY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE CSCE WAS ALSO PROVIDED IN HAMBURG' S CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT AND BONN' S INDEPENDENT.
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DENT GENERAL ANZEIGER. THE GENERAL ANZEIGER, WHICH FEATURED A PICTURE OF SECRETARY ROGERS, GROMYKO AND UN SECRETARY- GENERAL WALDHEIM ON ITS FRONT PAGE, PLACED EMPHASIS ON THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER' S WISH FOR A DECLARATION ON BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. THE ANZEIGER CARRIED A DPA (GERMAN PRESS AGENCY) REPORT WHICH DESCRIBED THE SPEECHES OF THE SOVIET, POLISH AND DANISH FOREIGN MINISTERS AS THE POLITICAL HIGH POINTS OF THIS FIRST DAY. CONTACTS BETWEEN FRG FONMIN SCHEEL AND HIS EAST GERMAN AND POLISH COUNTERPARTS WERE ALSO FEATURED IN DPA REPORTING.

3. DIE WELT SPREAD ITS CSCE COVERAGE OVER MOST OF ITS FIRST TWO PAGES. IN ADDITION TO A STORY FILED BY ITS CORRESPONDENT IN HELSINKI AND A POINT- BY- POINT DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUR MAIN GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE (EUROPEAN SECURITY, ECONOMICS AND SCIENCE, HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS AND AGREEMENT OF RESOLUTIONS), DIE WELT CARRIED A SHORT COMMENTARY ENTITLED " TWO ARE MORE EQUAL THAN THE REST IN HELSINKI." TOUCHING ON THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE US AND SOVIET UNION, THE STORY REPORTED THE SATISCACTION OF SECRETARY AND GROMYKO ON EARLY PROGRESS OF THE CONFERENCE. HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN09567
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730763/aaaajuwg.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 128096
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980306
Subject: SEC/ VISIT: EUROPEAN PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, GW, CDU, CSCE, CSU, PFOR, (ROGERS, WILLIAM O)
To: EUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005